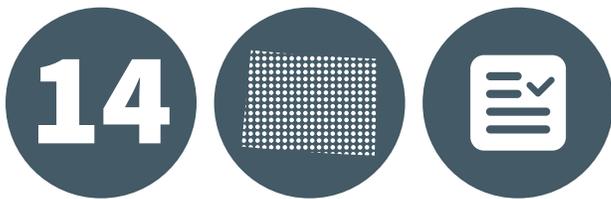
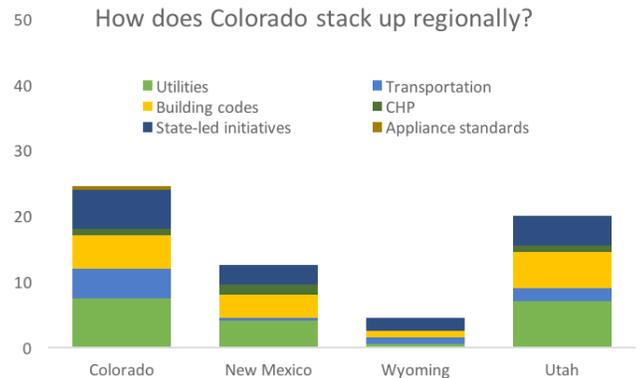
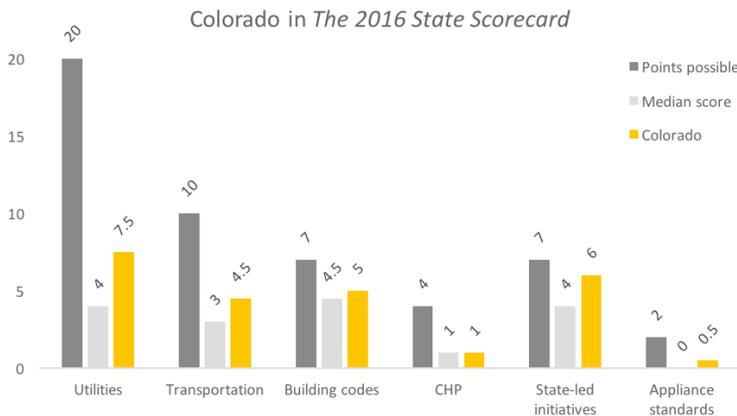


# Colorado



Colorado ranked 14th in the 2016 *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*, falling two positions in the rankings compared to 2015. Colorado earned 24.5 points out of a possible 50, the same number it earned last year.



## UTILITIES

Colorado scored 7.5 out of 20 points for its utility policies and programs. The state energy efficiency resource standard (EERS) sets targets for both electricity and natural gas savings, helping Colorado achieve above-average levels of energy savings in its homes and businesses. There is no decoupling mechanism for electric utilities, but the state's gas utilities may recover lost revenues. Performance incentives are also in place for utilities.



## TRANSPORTATION

Colorado earned 4.5 points out of a possible 10 points for transportation policies. In 2013, Colorado passed legislation that allows the entire local share of the Highway Users Trust fund to be used for public transit, bicycle, and pedestrian investments. The state also has incentives for high-efficiency vehicles that extend through 2021, and has a significant number of electric vehicle registrations throughout the state.



## BUILDING ENERGY CODES

Colorado earned 5 points out of 7 for its building energy code stringency and compliance efforts. Colorado is a home rule state with a minimum mandatory code equivalent to the 2003 IECC. However, 95 percent of new construction takes place in jurisdictions that have adopted either 2009 or 2012 IECC standards. The state completed an evaluation of code compliance in 2013, offers code trainings, and also has an active stakeholder advisory group.



## COMBINED HEAT & POWER

Colorado scored 1 out of 4 points for its combined heat and power policies. The state has an interconnection standard and allows renewable-fueled CHP systems and waste heat to power systems to qualify under its renewable energy standard. However, there are no policies in place designed to acquire energy savings from CHP that apply to all forms of CHP. Two new CHP installations were completed in 2015.



## STATE GOVERNMENT-LED INITIATIVES

Colorado scored 6 out of 7 points for state-led energy efficiency initiatives. Consumers are eligible for a major mortgage discount for efficient homes and renovations, and the state has a loan loss reserve to incentivize private lenders throughout Colorado to make small commercial loans for efficiency upgrades. Colorado also offers efficiency audits for agricultural projects as well as PACE financing. The Colorado government leads by example, benchmarking energy usage in state buildings and supporting the use of energy savings performance contracts. Research focused on energy efficiency takes place at several institutions in the state.



## APPLIANCE STANDARDS

Colorado earned 0.5 points for appliance standards. In 2014, the state adopted standards for plumbing products including faucets, toilets, urinals, and showerheads. These standards will result in energy savings in addition to water savings.



## HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Colorado's utility-led energy efficiency programs have continued to edge up in recent years in response to established energy savings targets calling for consistent savings each year through 2020. Electricity and gas savings remain higher than those of most states, and the state provides additional support through an array of financial incentives, including facilitating PACE financing for commercial properties. In order to maintain its rank, Colorado's utilities will need to sustain the strength of their program offerings and continue to hit their savings targets. To improve further, the state should look to policies that strengthen efficiency in vehicles and transportation, drive investment in combined heat and power, and continue to work with local communities to adopt the most up-to-date building energy codes.